

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Northtown CDC

Application ID: 14AC155662

Program Name: Veterans serving our Military Community

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

Strengths

The applicant presents a reasonable amount of local data to demonstrate the severity of the problem; Mississippi veterans are viewed as at risk and in need of service.

The application describes that in the state of Mississippi there are approximately 136,000 eligible veterans considered for services while more than 12,000 active duty service members are stationed in various installations throughout the state.

The proposed peer to peer intervention plan for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/Suicide prevention is likely to be effective with veterans; peer to peer mentoring is a positive method toward interventions and referrals.

AmeriCorps members will be the direct contact for veterans and their families. As a first point of contact, they will determine the veterans and their families' areas of need for assistance. The AmeriCorps members will be the conduit for information of available Veteran Administration and community resources.

The applicant denotes the successful administration of an outgoing AmeriCorps program; over 170 veteran intakes and more than 200 family members' enrollment have been completed by AmeriCorps members during the initial three months of the 2013's program.

The applicant has experience with an AmeriCorps planning grant and a current grant.

The applicant explains that, in the first 3 month of the 2013 formula program, AmeriCorps members have completed intakes on 175 veterans, 75 veteran's family members, 195 military family members and 112 active duty members.

Weaknesses

The applicant does provide some data pertaining to active duty members; in contrast, the application lacks data for other proposed target populations (active duty members and veteran's family members). As a result, the need for services for family members of veterans or active duty service members becomes unsupported and unsubstantiated.

The applicant did not provide a discernible identification of or a qualified metric of the proposed problem or need.

The applicant defines their target population as the outcomes of CNCS focus areas: V1: (Number of veterans that received CNCS supported assistance, V7: (Number of family members of active duty military services members CNCS supported assistance) & V8: (Number of veteran's families that received CNCS supported assistance).

The applicant's intent to provide intakes to 700 vets and 700 families appears to be duplicative. These same individuals will need to have a Veterans Administration (VA) intake to evaluate VA eligibility.

The applicant states that it will take a conservative guess on Mississippi's veteran population, indicating that 60% (136,200) of veterans are eligible for services, instead of citing data to support the estimate.

The applicant cites the number of veterans who are enrolled users as per the Jackson, and Biloxi, Mississippi Veterans Administration's, and the Memphis, Tennessee Veterans Administration and states that there are 20% of veterans who are eligible but not accessing services. However, it is unclear whether the 20% applies to the entire state, the target area, or one or more of the specific Veterans Administrations previously cited.

An intervention plan for the children (family members) of veterans and active duty service members is not included in the logic model chart or the narrative.

The proposed use of certain programs which are only offered in military bases or Reserve/National Guard compounds (Yellow Ribbon or Family Readiness Program) is unclear; from three targeted populations, only one (family members of active duty military members) benefits from those programs.

The applicant indicates that family members will be provided peer to peer mentoring, referral and PTSD/suicide prevention. However, the applicant does not include a plan of execution focusing on peer to peer mentoring and referral services for family members as discussed in the executive summary.

The applicant only provides data on veterans reached through intake. The applicant does not disclose further past performance milestones.